

From: Sean S.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/29/01 10:34am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I just wanted to offer my opinion regarding the proposed settlements of the Microsoft anti-trust case.

I think the DOJ offer is in no way satisfactory. It does little to punish Microsoft for past illegal activity. The dollar value of the proposed contribution to schools is a paltry sum for Microsoft, it won't actually cost them anywhere near the claimed value, and it could entrench Microsoft in one of the few markets (education) where other computing options (Apple, Linux) still have a chance of competing. The DOJ settlement offer also does nothing to prohibit Microsoft from continuing their past behaviors - no penalties for further illegal behavior are outlined.

The proposal from the six states who rejected the DOJ proposal is much better. This proposal requires Microsoft to release source code for some of their applications, which will open up competition and remove some of the competitive edge Microsoft enjoys from owning the operating system. It requires Microsoft to sell a version of Windows that does not have bundled applications. It prohibits Microsoft from retaliating against vendors or developers for providing non-Microsoft software with systems or developing for non-Microsoft platforms. The proposal also has teeth - there are very specific penalties outlined for breaches of the agreement.

I strongly urge the DOJ to abandon its proposed settlement, and adopt the settlement offer of the six states.

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